

THREE FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. J-24 . 212 East Neal . Three Forks, MT 59752

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November 16, 2015

Superintendent News – November

Welcome to November in Montana! We have seen the first signs of winter and the big game hunting season is in full swing. Over the last couple of weeks, I have been contemplating the content focus of this month's Superintendent News. After driving back this last weekend from the western part of the state, I was reminded about how fortunate we are to live in such a great place. Last week I watched our community come together and honor our veterans in one of the best ceremonies I have attended in a while. The school district and local veterans have been able to honor our veterans year after year. The ceremony has become a tradition that I look forward to each year. I especially thought the speakers this year were outstanding! It sure is nice to be able to come to work every day at the school and work with such outstanding folks. Our teachers, para-professionals, principals, and hourly employees are truly student centered.

Our school board has been working diligently preparing for an anticipated increase in program and personnel costs to the district in the coming year. The school board has taken the viewpoint of needing to plan strategically for the coming years and the need to have a sustainable general fund budget to finance the programs that are needed to keep our students competing in the 21st century. Our school district, unlike surrounding districts is not at 100% of the general fund budget cap. Our district has been able to keep the programs and personnel in place at 88% of the cap in the elementary and 89% of the cap in the high school. The time to increase the cap is nearing, as the school district will not receive the same increase in state funding that we did this year for next school year. As a result, the school board will be asking to increase the anticipated budget cap to 91% in the elementary and 92% in the high school. This increase will give the school district the ability to keep all of our current programs and personnel in place for our students. Without the small increase, the district will need to cut programs and personnel next school year. I am thankful that we live in a community that supports the school district and that we all work well with one another. Ultimately, our focus at the school is to prepare the next generation of workers for the local businesses and manufacturing plants in Three Forks. The investment in the school district over time will give back to the community of Three Forks and we all will see the impact.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be taking some time to think of others, reflect on what we are thankful for, and enjoy Thanksgiving with family and friends. The school district is a busy place and we are beginning our winter sports season this week with practice. Please if you have, spare moments come over to the school and attend a sporting event, concert, or assembly so that you can also see the investment that we all have in our students.

Yours in Education,



Robert DoBell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In collaboration with our community, the core purpose of the Three Forks Public School District is to be the model of excellence in education by using best practices, meeting the needs of every student, and instilling a love of lifelong learning.